Seizure of Gold and Silver

487. SHRI PRABHAKAR RAO KALVALA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether gold worth Rs. 9.5 lakh was seized at Delhi Airport from a passenger on a flight from Singapore on the 1st February, 1991 and gold worth Rs. 1.5 crores and 344 silver bars worth Rs. 9 crores were seized near Indore on the 16th January, 1991;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what action has been taken by Government in each case?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) to (c) The Customs officers of Indira Gandhi International Airport, New Delhi intercepted a passenger, named Jagdish Chander, who had arrived from Hongkong on 1st February, 1991. Search of his person resulted in the recovery and seizure of 22 gold bars of foreign origin collectively weighing 2468 grams of 24 carat purity valued at approximately Rs. 9.38 lakhs. The gold was concealed in a black coloured pouch tied around his waist Shri Jagdish Chander was arrested and a complaint has been filed in the jurisdictional court under the provisions of the Customs Act, 1962.

In the other case, the officers of the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence have seized 40 gold bars weighing approximately 1 kg. each valued at Rs. 1.49 crores (approx.) in Delhi on 16th January, 1991. A mini bus valued at Rs. 1.5 lakhs and foreign currency worth Rs. 74,320|- have also been seized. Two persons have been arrested and subsequently detained under the provisions of the Conservation of Foreign Exchange and Prevention of Smuggling Activities Act, 1974.

In so far as, the seizure near Indore is concerned, the reference is presumably to a seizure of 344 bars of silver weighing 10.7 tonnes approximately valued at Rs. 8 crores seized from two trucks which were intercepted near the border of the States of Madhya Pradesh and Orissa on 14th January, 1991 by the officers of the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence. Both the trucks and a Maruti van, collectively valued at Rs. 5 lakhs were also seized. 8 persons have been arrested and subsequently detained under the provisions of Conservation of Foreign Exchange and Prevention of Smuggling Activities Act, 1974.

Computerisation in Nationalised Banks

488. SHRI PRABHAKAR RAO KALVALA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item which appeared in the Hindi daily, 'The Hindustan' on the 7th February, 1991 captioned 'BANKO MAIN COMPUTERISATION KI SIFARISH';

(b) if so, the estimated expenditure likely to be incured on computerisation of nationalised banks; and

(c) by when all these banks are likely to be computerised?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) According to Reserve Bank of India, broad estimates on tentative basis indicate that the total expenditure on computerisation in banks is likely to be in the range of Rs. 500 to 600 crores.

(c) Computerisation in banks is being introduced in a phased manner and is an ongoing process.